Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 19 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 20 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 18 Jan 2024 at 13:41

Confidence: High for dry, bright and cold conditions on Friday then for a change to much more unsettled, wet and windy weather for the weekend.

Headline for Friday 19 Jan 2024: Mainly dry and bright. Windy and very cold with a severe wind chill.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 19 Jan 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
No Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Friday 19 Jan 2024

Weather: Dry with long bright or clear spells. A few light and very isolated snow showers are possible. Feeling bitterly cold in the strong southwesterly winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 95%. Any cloud expected to be above summits.

Low cloud and visibility: Generally very good visibility but blowing snow and spindrift at times. Brief reductions in any light showers but should not affect navigation.

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Forecast for Friday 19 Jan 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	20/24 W	23/28 SW	27/33 SW	29/36 SW	30/39 W	32/41 SW	32/41 SW	33/43 SW	36/47 SW
600	17/24 W	21/30 SW	22/32 W	25/36 SW	26/35 W	27/38 SW	26/37 SW	25/37 SW	28/41 SW
300	6/18 W	8/23 W	7/24 W	9/27 W	12/29 W	11/30 SW	10/29 SW	10/29 SW	12/33 SW
Valley	6/18 W	7/20 W	8/23 W	10/26 W	13/28 W	12/28 SW	11/28 SW	12/28 SW	13/31 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-5/-13	-4/-13	-4/-13	-4/-13	-3/-12	-3/-12	-2/-11	-2/-11	-1/-10
600	-3/-10	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-10	-1/-9	-0/-8	-0/-8	-0/-8	1/-6
300	-2/-5	-1/-5	-0/-4	0/-4	2/-3	2/-3	2/-2	2/-2	3/-1
Valley	1/-2	2/-1	2/-0	3/-1	4/0	5/1	5/1	5/1	6/2
Freezing Level*	100m	100m	200m	200m	400m	500m	500m	600m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A bright but bitterly cold day in the fells. Strong sun glare and some blowing snow above 500m may affect the eyes so ski goggles or sunglasses are advised.

Forecast for Saturday 20 Jan 2024

Weather: A dry, windy and cold night. Saturday will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain or sleet, but falling as snow above 700m. This will become persistent and heavy with blizzard conditions on the tops. Very difficult conditions with gale to storm force winds on the tops.

Maximum wind: South or Southwest 35 to 45mph, gusts 60 to 70mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% overnight but becoming less than 10% by dawn.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud and fog developing above 400m with near-zero visibility in blizzard conditions above 800m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 4C rising to 7C.
At 800m: Minus 1C rising to 1C.
Freezing level: 700m rising to 900m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 18 January 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Full report: Two consecutive cold, absolutely glorious blue sky days with similar underfoot conditions. There is snow in the Lake District down to valley level. The snow depth rises with height although, as ever, the actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on windswept areas – such as the tops of some SW facing slopes – to deep drifts easily able to swallow a 60cm ice axe with an extremely rough average being around 8 to10cm at 900m. The deepest drifts are in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep north and especially east facing slopes. 4 to 5cm deep windslab (unstable snow) was also present in such areas. The snow at altitude was mainly non-weight baring and breaking trail through the deeper drifts was heavy going and energy sapping. There is a noticeable contrast in underfoot conditions with the dividing line being between 400m and 500m. Below this height, most noticeably at and around valley level, there was a thaw on Tuesday followed by a hard freeze. This has resulted in hard snow and ice especially where the snow has been compacted on popular routes – including pavements and untreated roads. Above 400-500m, the snow is soft, unless compacted, and there is little to no ice. Cracks have appeared in some of the weak cornices (snow overhangs) that have formed above steep north and especially east facing slopes – such as above Helvellyn's east face. There are footprints far too close to this edge – especially by Helvellyn's Trig point. If ascending from the popular western (Thirlmere) side it is not immediately obvious that the edge is corniced so please keep well clear of such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise – honestly, they WILL thank you for it! Upland tarns, such as Red Tarn, have either partially or fully frozen but are highly unlikely to be safe to walk on. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. This is not simply for safety but also for enjoyment as the summit plateau today was a place to don extra clothing and then linger to savour the majestic experience. Something that those devoid of extra layers were unable to do in the minus 17 degree windchill. Owing to the amount of ice on paths at lower elevations and compacted snow on popular routes, microspikes and walking poles are strongly recommended, especially in descent; they were the tools of choice for the assessor today! Crampons and especially an ice axe are essential for those attempting, or traversing, steep and exposed routes together with winter mountaineering experience including the ability to assess the stability, or otherwise, of snow slopes. With the sun's glare being reflected off the snow, sunglasses were also essential today and it was surprising to see so many walkers without this necessary eye protection. The Lakeland fells were magnificent today so come properly equipped with plenty of layers and enjoy these superb conditions while they last! Temperature: minus 6.5 C, Maximum wind speed 20.0mph, Wind chill: minus 16.7 C, Average wind speed: 12.1 mph.

Issued at: 1341 on Thu 18 Jan 2024

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